THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Subsidies to farmers for Fertilizers

2903. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Questions 463 and 469 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 1987 and state the amount, if any, of subsidies provided to the farmers in respect of fertilizers during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): While no direct subsidy on fertilizers is paid to the farmers, the prices of fertilizers charged to the farmers are statutorily controlled by Government. These Prices are uniform throughout the country and the Government have been giving substantial amount of subsidy in order to support the selling prices. In case of imported fertilizers, the subsidy represents the difference between the cost incurred on imports including handling charges, distribution, etc. and the realisation from the sale of fertilizers at the controlled rate. The subsidy given on indigenous fertilizers represents the difference between the fair retention price determined by the Government for manufacturers and the amount realised by the manufacturers from the sale of fertilizers to the farmers at controlled rate.

The amount of subsidy paid by the Government during the last three years is indicated below:—

Amount of Subsidy (Rs. in crores)

Year	Indigenous Fertilizers	Imported Fertilizers	Total
1983-84	900	142	1042
1984-85	1200	727	1927
1985-86	1600	324	1924

Pesticides harmful for farm produce

2904. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the pesticides used by agriculturists have been reported to be harmful to the farm produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to discourage use of such pesticides or reduce their use considerably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No pesticide approved for import/manufacture by the Registration Committee, constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968, is reported to be harmful to the farm produce, if used as per the prescribed instructions.

The Registration Committee before the grant of registration satisfies itself about the safety aspects of pesticides in relation to their phoytotoxicity as well as the pesticide residues to ensure safe interaval between the application of pesticides and harvest of farm produce. The safe inteval as